

SELGEM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Sedgwick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Scottish Rite Temple (preferred name)
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Y. M. C. A. Building

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: First street at Topeka, northwest corner			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita			
STATE Kansas	CODE 67202	COUNTY: Sedgwick	CODE 173

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Fraternal lodge

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Scottish Rite Bodies, Wichita Consistory			
STREET AND NUMBER: First street at Topeka, northwest corner			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67202	CODE 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Sedgwick County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67202	CODE 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Scottish Rite Temple is a large rectangular building at the northwest corner of First and Topeka streets in Wichita. The Romanesque style structure is four stories high and has a full basement, which is partially exposed above ground level. The walls are constructed of native limestone laid in a random ashlar pattern. The stones vary in size and their rough hewn faces give a rusticated surface texture to the building. A band of smooth stone delineates the first floor line. A bold cornice with stone brackets defines the fourth floor line. The roof form is basically the gable concept, but it is compounded by several intersecting gables and a profusion of dormers with small gable roofs. The walls rise as parapets along most of the roof line; however, small simple roof eaves occur between the dormers.

The building's appearance is enhanced by many features, the most striking of which is the semicircular tower located at the southeast corner. The tower begins at the ground line and rises through the four stories to well above the roof line. It terminates in a flat roof concealed behind a circular parapet roof. (Originally the tower terminated in a tall conical roof another two stories in height.) At the second floor level a cantilevered balcony further adds to the tower's dominance. The entrance on the south side is located within a massive Egyptian style archway which is decoratively constructed of stone and flanked by Egyptian column motifs. A monumental stairway rises through the archway to the entrance doors. Directly above the archway at the second floor level is an angular bay window. This entrance feature is further heightened by a semicircular arch at the third floor. The third floor wall within the arch is recessed and a balustrade is located on top of the second floor bay window to form a balcony. The entry on the east facade is detailed in a classical motif with an archway flanked by square pilasters. (This entrance is not original and was apparently added after the building was purchased by the Scottish Rite bodies.) A trabeated lintel occurs above the entry. This lintel is detailed with dentils and horizontal lines, typical of classic styling. The stone-faced dormers contain three windows in a Palladian design. The front wall of each dormer projects above the roof line and is capped with a stone coping which follows the roof slope.

The window openings on the first floor are slender rectangles rising from stone sills and topped by flat stone lintels. The first floor windows in the 1907 addition are grouped under large semicircular arches filled in with decorative murals. The second floor windows are long and slender and have semicircular arched heads with the arch stones laid in a fan-like manner. Second floor windows in the addition are rectangular and grouped under horizontal decorative panels. The third floor windows are rectangles similar to those of the first floor. Windows on the top story are either rectangular or arched, occur in either the dormers or gable ends and are arranged in different combinations. Many of the window openings have stained glass.

Several additions have been made to the original structure. The major addition occurred in 1907 when a large dining room and an auditorium were added to the north. That addition was of matching limestone

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. blocks. A further extension to the north was added in 1954 of blonde brick. A stone three-story addition was built to the west in 1956. The interior of the Scottish Rite Temple was restored and redecorated in 1965. At the same time more than 1,000 stones in the exterior wall were replaced.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1887-1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scottish Rite Temple in Wichita was built in 1887-1888 for the Young Men's Christian Association.

The first meeting of the Wichita Y. M. C. A. was held on October 23, 1885. After Andrew Baird became general secretary in March, 1886, the association began expanding and larger and better facilities were needed. At a fund-raising banquet held on February 17, 1887, 40 prominent citizens subscribed about \$20,000 for a new building; the amount was increased to \$50,000 at a public meeting the following night.

Construction of the new Y. M. C. A. building, which was designed by Proudfoot and Bird of Wichita, began in February, 1887. The three-story structure was completed early in 1888 at an approximate cost of \$60,000. By that time the boom in Wichita had collapsed, and because many subscribers were unable to fulfill their pledges the association went in debt more than \$20,000 and had to mortgage its new building.

The Y. M. C. A. sold the building to the Scottish Rite Masonic bodies in January, 1898, for about \$75,000, which was just enough to cancel the association's accumulated debts.

The Scottish Rite bodies of Wichita had been chartered November 17, 1887. Their previous meeting hall had been the old Baptist Church building. Shortly after acquiring the Y. M. C. A. building, the Scottish Rite began plans for expansion. On April 22, 1907, the cornerstone was laid for the present dining room and auditorium, which were constructed to the north. In 1956 a 60 by 140-foot, three-story addition to the west was completed for \$150,000. The interior of the temple was restored and redecorated in 1965.

The Scottish Rite Temple has long been a landmark and a show-place in downtown Wichita. It is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture adapted to Kansas native stone. Its well maintained condition and its long use as a Masonic temple enhance its importance in the architectural heritage of Kansas.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bentley, O. H., editor, History of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas, v. 1 (Chicago, C. F. Cooper and Co., 1910), pp. 378, 380, 398, 399.
 Long, R. M., Wichita Century (Wichita, The Wichita Historical Museum Association, 1969), pp. 86, 87, 119.
 Noble, R. C., Our Trip to California (Shelbyville, Ill., Our Best Words, publisher, 1890), p. 73, 74.
 Wichita Morning Eagle, December 6, 1956.
 Wichita--"The Magic City" (Neenah, Wis., Art Publishing Co., 1889), p. 43.
 Wichita Weekly Eagle, January 14, February 11, 18, April 22, September 16, 1887.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	41'	18"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	97°	20'	03"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Richard D. Pankratz, Planner Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant	
ORGANIZATION	DATE		
Kansas State Historical Society	November 4, 1971		
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Topeka	Kansas	20	

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date January 17, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS